

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 17, 2006. Claims 42 to 45, 47, 59, and 76 to 82 are pending in the application, of which Claims 42, 59 and 78 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 42, 46, 47, 49, 50, 54, 55 and 57 to 59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,088,120 (Shibusawa) in view of well-known prior art. Claims 43, 44, 51 and 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Shibusawa in view of well-known prior art, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,450,571 (Rosekran). Claims 45 and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Shibusawa in view of well-known prior and Rosekran, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,287,194 (Lobiondo). Claims 48 and 56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Shibusawa in view of well-known prior art, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,686,964 (Makishima). Claims 42, 46, 47, 49, 50, 54, 55 and 57 to 59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Shibusawa in view of Lobiondo and U.S. Patent No. 6,035,103 (Zuber). Claims 43, 44, 45, 51, 52 and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Shibusawa in view of Lobiondo and Zuber, and in further view of Rosekran. Claims 48 and 56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Shibusawa in view of Lobiondo and Zuber, and in further view of Makishima.

The present invention concerns generating a synthesized capability description file obtained by synthesizing capability description files for a plurality of apparatuses. An appropriate synthesized capability description file is generated according to a format of the value of the capability described in the capability description file.

Turning to specific claim language, amended Claim 42 is directed to a print processing method which is executed by a print system to which plural print apparatuses and an information processing apparatus are connected. The method includes: a selecting step of selecting at least two or more print apparatuses from among the plural print apparatuses; a receiving step of receiving capability description information of a first print apparatus and capability description information of a second print apparatus, both selected in said selecting step; and a generating step of generating synthesized capability description information obtained by synthesizing the capability description information of the first print apparatus and the capability description information of the second print apparatus. In a case where the value of the capability described in the capability description information is a first format, the generating step determines the value of the capability described in the synthesized capability description information by executing arithmetic calculation of the value of the capability of the first print apparatus and the value of the capability of the second print apparatus. In a case where the value of the capability described in the capability description information is a second format, the generating step determines the value of the capability described in the synthesized capability description information by executing Boolean operation of the value of the capability of the first print apparatus and the value of the capability of the second print apparatus.

Neither Shibusawa, Lobiondo, Zuber, Rosekrans nor Makishima, neither alone nor in combination, disclose or suggest all of the features of independent Claims 42, and in particular, are not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of generating synthesized capability description information in a case where the value of the capability described in the capability description information is a first format, determining the value of the capability described in the synthesized capability description information by executing arithmetic

calculation of the value of the capability of the first print apparatus and the value of the capability of the second print apparatus and, in a case where the value of the capability described in the capability description information is a second format, determining the value of the capability described in the synthesized capability description information by executing Boolean operation of the value of the capability of the first print apparatus and the value of the capability of the second print apparatus.

Shibusawa discloses that, in the case of synthesizing a printer capable of processing A4, B4 and A3 formatted paper and a printer capable of processing A5 and A4 formatted paper, the synthesized printer can process to A5, A4, B4 and A3 paper formats. However, nothing in Shibusawa discloses or suggests in a case where the value of the capability described in the capability description information is a first format, a generating step determines the value of the capability described in the synthesized capability description information by executing arithmetic calculation of the value of the capability of the first print apparatus and the value of the capability of the second print apparatus. That is, while a system in accordance with Shibusawa may be able to determine the set of paper formats processed by two printers, such as A5, A4, B4 and A3 as in the example, the system does not have the capability of determining the value of the capability described in the synthesized capability description information, such as the total amount of A4 paper stock available in the two printers.

In addition, Lobiondo is directed to a print system in which plural printers and a scheduler are connected to a network. In Lobiondo, the relevant scheduler manages the requested print job so as to complete the printing on time such that, if it is expected that the printing does not complete on time by a single printer, the scheduler allocates the print job to a plurality of printers. However, Lobiondo fails to disclose or suggest determining the value of the

capability described in synthesized capability description information by executing arithmetic calculation of the value of the capability of a first print apparatus and a value of the capability of the second print apparatus. That is, while a system in accordance with the disclosures of Lobiondo may be capable of allocating a job to a plurality of printers if a single printer cannot execute the job in a timely manner, the system does not determine the value of the capability described in synthesized capability description information.

Finally, nothing has been found in the remaining references, namely Zuber, Rosekrans and Makishima, which cures the deficiencies of Shibusawa and Lobiondo.

In light of the deficiencies of the applied references as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 42 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 59 and 78 are directed to a program stored on a computer-readable storage medium, and an information processing apparatus, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 42. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 59 and 78 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', written over a horizontal line.

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